

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054029

TOSEC 301

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE FROM LISBON MARCH 11, 1975
REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1311

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POSSIBLE COUP ATTEMPT

REF: LISBON 1308

SITREP NO. 3: AS OF 1:25 P.M. LOCAL

1. EMBOFF ON SCENE HAS DRIVEN BY RAL-1 GARRISON. REPORTS
THAT APPROXIMATELY 50 TROOPS WEARING GREEN BERETS AND NON-
CAMOUFLAGED UNIFORMS (POSSIBLY PARATROOPS) ARE FIRING INTO
GARRISON. THERE IS NO FIRING FROM WITHIN GARRISON THAT EMBOFF
CAN HEAR. TROOPS SHOOTING AT GARRISON HAVE RADIOS.

2. TWO AIRCRAFT ARE CIRCLING GARRISON BUT NOT SHOOTING.

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3. EMBOFF ALSO REPORTS THAT SOLDIERS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN

THE SHOOTING ARE CASUALLY EATING LUNCH.

4. SPANISH EMBOFF TOLD US THAT THERE WERE TWO THEORIES ON ORIGINS OF POSSIBLE COUP ATTEMPT: (A) GENERAL OTELO DE CARVALHO HAD BEEN DISMISSED BY THE COUNCIL OF TWENTY AND WAS REFUSING TO TAKE THE ORDER. (B) COUP HAS BEEN INITIATED BY GENERAL GALVAO DE MELO USING AIR FORCE.

5. COMMENT: AS YET WE HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION ON UNITS INVOLVED, BUT DATT CONFIRMS THAT PARACHUTISTS WEAR GREEN BERETS. LOCAL UPI CORRESPONDENT HEARD FROM ANI (PORTUTUESE NEW AGENCY) THAT TROOPS WERE FROM TANCOS PARACHUTE GARRISON. FYI: PARATROOPS IN PORTUGAL ARE PART OF AIR FORCE.
CARLUCCI
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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